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A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED 1841.

Hongkong, 9th September, 1898. [24]

## DEATHS.

At the Shakespeare, Neishi, at 7:35 o'clock on the morning of 12th September, GEORGE PATTERSON, aged 78 years, died at the Queen's General Hospital, Shinghai, on the 11th September, 1898, PAUL FRUITATE, Imperial Maritime Customs, aged 30 years.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, September 24th 1898.

The death of the young Emperor of China, of whose real life so little has been known by foreigners, who was until the other day regarded as a mere puppet in the hands of the Empress Dowager and of designing Ministers and Eunuchs, but who has within the last few months given some indication that he possessed a will of his own and enlightened views—the death of this comparatively unknown young man may have more far-reaching effects upon the world's history than that of many a more potent and famous monarch. China has reached a parting of the ways; the contest between the new and the old order has become acute, the leaders are divided amongst themselves, the defeat the country sustained at the hands of Japan and the concessions that have been extorted by other Powers have destroyed the people's respect for the Government, and insuremilitary movements are in progress in several of the provinces. The young Emperor, either of his own motion or under the influence of intelligent advisers who had gained his ear, had commenced a radical reform of the administration and was endeavouring to bring his country into line with modern advancement. Had he been allowed to carry on the work which he might have overcome the difficulties by which he is so thickly beset and earned for himself a position that would have entitled him to the respect of Foreign Powers. Very possibly these anticipations might have been disappointed, but what slender chance there was has been swept away by the Emperor's death. The instability attending upon a change in the monarchy, added to the difficulties already distracting the country, will render a revolution or foreign intervention almost inevitable.

It will only be in the last resort that the Powers will take action, for there are so many international rivalries and jealousies involved that agreement is almost impossible and no one Power would be inclined to assume the responsibility of taking action alone. The responsibility, however, may be forced upon one or more of them. If the death of the Emperor means the return to absolute power of the unscrupulous and selfish Empress Dowager and the less unscrupulous and impious Li Hung-chang, Great Britain, either alone or in co-operation with those of the other Powers that wish to keep China an open market, will have to consider whether she will boldly enforce her principles or see the country openly sold to Russia.

Report says that KWANG SU's death was not a natural one. If he has fallen a victim to assassination he has only shared what is believed to have been the fate of his predecessor Tung Chi. The last named, declining to play consistently the part of a mere puppet, when he reached man's estate after his long minority broke bounds and secretly fled to Tientsin to see something of the world. That little excursion, there is every

reason to believe, cost him his life. Official report says he contracted smallpox and died a victim to the disease; rumour has it that he was secretly poisoned as an irreconcilable young man who threatened to develop an inconvenient will of his own. Those who had held the reins of power during his minority, were not content that the Emperor should begin to act for himself. He was accordingly made away with and again an infant was placed on the throne, thus securing another long minority and another equally long lease of power for the Empress Dowager and her adherents.

KWANG SU in due time attained his majority and nominally assumed the government, but the Empress Dowager still exercised effective control. Latterly the young Emperor had begun to assert his individuality, in a more reputable way than his predecessor, but a way that proved even more disastrous, those whose guidance he had hitherto accepted. For some time past, since the issue of the more pronounced reform decree, commenced predictions of his murder have been expressed.

As will be seen from the latest telegram, the crime is officially laid to the charge of CHANG YIN-YUAN and KANG Yu-wei, two of the leading members of the Reform party. On the face of it, it is improbable that either of these men could have had anything to do with it. In the first place, it is unlikely that they could have been in such intimate personal association with the Emperor as to have been in a position to administer poison to him, and in the second place such a crime would have a damning effect upon the movement of which they are at the head. The Emperor has of late been working with the remainder of the reformers to murder him would be to throw back the movement and alienate both native and foreign sympathy from it. On the other hand if the murder was committed by the Conservative party it would be to their interest to fix it upon the Reformers, and describing national execration upon the latter. The decree of the 17th September admonishing KANG Yu-wei for not having promptly left Peking to take up the position of editor of the official organ at Shanghai, the *Chinese Progress*, to which he had been appointed, may conceivably have been procured as part of the plot. It would be easy for the conspirators to arrange that it would be committed by the manufacturers as at present carried on. The most essential point for the manufacturers to combine to do with it, with middlemen, as soon as practicable, and direct with the representatives of the China houses, the process of making up to the banks and shipping, etc., so as to save the heavy expense that a half of shiftings has to incur now before it reaches the hands of the buyer, as is done in the United States and Canada. The trade will then be placed more firmly with the Chinese manufacturers, who could successfully compete with the heavy charges of domestic shiftings that are now being factored out. All that vast system of relations and discounts that is despoiling the trade must be done away with, or, as surely as China's former valuable tea trade has dwindled into insignificance, from very similar causes, will the Manchurian trade with this country gradually pass into other hands. This, of necessity, will claim the hands of the manufacturers, but what must come is a reduction of the manufacturers' expenses at present incurred. Reform is wanted all along the line, not forgetting the monopoly formed by that powerful combination that controls the steamer service to the East, composed entirely of British Companies that carry all the tea to Peking, at intermediate rates; market, close at 30 per cent, to 30 per cent, cheaper than that of our own country, and the constant statement of flocks of tea being paid from New York for £12.50 to £12.10, whilst Manchester has been paying £12.40. Le Mansfield manufacturers still pay £12.50, as against £12.10, themselves syndicated to a more equitable footing with that of rival and competing countries.

At the Marquisate yesterday W. F. Gies, an American stoker, was sentenced in 14 days for shooting himself from the ship upon which he was serving. George Horsley, charged with a similar offence, was ordered to be put on board by the police. The telegraph is under official conservative.

A Japanese paper learns that on the 7th instant the Ho-kung and Shanghai Banking Corporation purchased 520,000 silver bars from the Bank of Japan. It is reported that the silver is to have been purchased for circulation in Hongkong—Nippon News.

It is reported that Mr. Macdon, M.P., who is at present in the North, has signed a contract with the Chinese Government for the construction of a railway connecting Hangchow, Soochow, and Shanghai. The Belgians (?) are negotiating to obtain a contract for the building of a railway from Shanghai to Ningpo, and Wenzhou, the survey for which is being made by an Italian engineer named Licardi—*China Gazette*.

Philip Ward, of the *Blenheim*, appeared at Magistrate yesterday to answer a charge of being disorderly in a public street. P.C. 514 said it was about 12 o'clock that morning he was duty in St. John's Street, when he saw the *China Gazette*. There was a crowd round him. He took defendant, who was not sober, to No. 7 Police Station. Witness did not go into a house and wake defendant. The sergeant in charge of No. 7 Police Station said defendant was not drunk when brought in. A sum of \$5, or 14 days was imposed.

A day or two ago two Chinese postmen waiting on Pether's Wharf for the launch were overheard discussing the recent conviction of one of their men in whose box were discovered some letters from which the stamp had been removed. One of them made the remark that the man was a fool and that he should have been taken to prison when all the evidence pointed to his guilt. He was rather an anxious one, but it suggests the question whether the speaker himself is in the habit of acting in accordance with his suggestion.

In view of the reported assassination of N.

Chang Yin-yuan and Kang Yu-wei, the

*China Daily News* of the 20th September

and the 21st September, the

Government of the

Emperor issued a

decree forbidding

the publication of

any news concerning the

assassination of the

Emperor.

The damage inflicted in Yokohama harbour

on the Italian cruiser *Mareo* by the

cannon of the British ship *Lionfish*

was severely repaired by the

Italian gunners.

The New York papers clearly intimated that

the immediate increase of the Naval and

Military forces at Manila is intended to

forestall any difficulties which Spain and Ger-

many may ultimately raise.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Sir George Grey.

## CHANG MING is a veteran of 100 years. Official report says he contracted smallpox and died a victim to the disease; rumour has it that he was secretly poisoned as an irreconcilable young man who threatened to develop an inconvenient will of his own.

An Indian servant, who was in his charge, was a stout defendant, who was in his charge, was washing the floor. He was removing his jacket when he saw him take the pieces of paper produced and secrete it in his waistcoat. When he found out he had been discovered, defendant tried to swallow the paper but was seized and the peasant who had held the reins of power during his minority, were not content that the Emperor should begin to act for himself. He was accordingly made away with and again an infant was placed on the throne, thus securing another long minority and another equally long lease of power for the Empress Dowager and her adherents.

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reform decree, commenced predictions of his murder have been expressed.

A fire broke out Shanghai about 11:40 p.m. on Friday, 13th September, in an opium shop on Queen's Road, which rapidly spread among the tenement houses. Although the Fire Department soon appeared on the scene, the fire had made such progress that it was not until thirteen houses had been destroyed that it was put under control.

The proprietor of the shop had been arrested and tried to swallow the paper but was seized and the peasant who had held the reins of power during his minority, were not content that the Emperor should begin to act for himself. He was accordingly made away with and again an infant was placed on the throne, thus securing another long minority and another equally long lease of power for the Empress Dowager and her adherents.

At the Marquisate yesterday before the magistrate, Justice Jonathan Gordon, president of the *Man of the Wheel*, 15, Queen's Road, Central, was charged with allowing arms to be brought into his shop and also with giving drink to drunken persons. Mr. Wilkinson, counsel for defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

Acting-Sergeant Dymond said that shortly after nine o'clock on Wednesday night he saw a crowd of people opposite defendant's house, among the crowd being two police officers. He made enquiry, and was told that a man had been arrested and was to be discharged on the following day. He wished him to give to the man, who had been away, made like

paper up, was fined \$25, or six weeks.

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